

~~Top Secret~~
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PAKISTAN: Sectarian Clashes

Pakistan has sealed off a strategic salient on its border with Afghanistan and may have to use Army troops to halt serious disturbances that began there earlier this week. Five men of a local militia unit were killed when it attempted to halt fighting in the Kurram Agency between Sunni and Shia tribesmen, and a cease-fire arranged by senior Pakistani officials lasted only hours. As the fighting spread, Afghan refugees--who outnumber the local population--reportedly became involved on the side of the local Sunnis. [REDACTED]

Comment: Islamabad will act quickly to quell the fighting to forestall any attempt by Moscow and Kabul to exploit old rivalries and growing tensions between refugees and local tribesmen in Kurram, which provides insurgents with a major infiltration route into Afghanistan. [REDACTED]

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